WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An assay plate for detecting the presence of a first mobile reactant that binds to a first immobilized reactant, said assay plate comprising:

a substrate; and

a dried aliquot of said immobilized reactant, said immobilized reactant being bound to the surface of said substrate, said first immobilized reactant binding said mobile reactant when a solution containing said mobile reactant is brought into contact with said immobilized reactant.

2. The assay plate of Claim 1 wherein said mobile and immobilized reactants are nucleic acids.

3. The assay plate of Claim 1 wherein said mobile reactant is one member of an antibody-antigen pair and said immobilized reactant is the other member of said pair.

4. The assay plate of Claim 1 further comprising a moisture proof covering for protecting said dried aliquot from moisture during the storage of said assay plate.

5. The assay plate of Claim 1 further comprising a dried aliquot of a second immobilized reactant, said dried aliquot of said second immobilized reactant being at a different location on said substrate that said dried aliquot of said first immobilized reactant, said second immobilized reactant binding a second mobile reactant.

6. A method for making an assay plate for detecting the presence of a mobile reactant that binds to an immobilized reactant, said method comprising the steps of:

binding said immobilized reactant to a substrate;

washing said substrate to remove any immobilized reactant that is not bound to said substrate; and

drying said substrate and said bound immobilized reactant.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein said mobile and immobilized reactants are nucleic acids.

8. The method of Claim 6 wherein said mobile reactant is one member of an antibody-antigen pair and said immobilized reactant is the other member of said pair.

9. The method of Claim 6 further comprising the step of packaging said substrate in a moisture proof covering for protecting said dried aliquot from moisture during the storage of said assay plate.

10. A method for detecting a mobile reactant comprising the steps of:

providing an assay plate having a dried aliquot of an immobilized reactant bound thereon, said immobilized reactant binding said mobile reactant when both said immobilized reactant and said mobile reactant are in a wet state;

bringing a solution containing said mobile reactant into contact with said dried aliquot;

washing said assay plate; and

measuring the amount of mobile reactant bound to said washed assay plate.

11. The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of drying said washed assay plate prior to measuring the amount of mobile reactant bound to said washed assay plate.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein said measurement of said mobile reactant is performed on said dried assay plate without the addition of water thereto.

13. The assay plate of Claim 10 wherein said mobile and immobilized reactants are nucleic acids.

14. The assay plate of Claim 10 wherein said mobile reactant is one member of an antibody-antigen pair and said immobilized reactant is the other member of said pair.

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